



WASHINGTON STATE'S
BEYOND WASTE
PROJECT

How Ecology responded to Major Comments on the Draft Beyond Waste plan

This document is a brief summary of the main themes raised during the comment period on the Beyond Waste Public Review Draft plan documents. Comments were received by letter, via electronic forms through the project Web site, through comments and discussion at seven public meetings, and through other forums, such as the state Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meetings. Over all, much support was expressed for the Beyond Waste vision, concepts and goals. The comment themes listed below only address areas where concerns were expressed or significant changes were requested. In addition to the comments below, many wording changes and suggestions were given and where appropriate, were incorporated into the document. All the sections referred to in the () are in the Summary document. Often more comprehensive changes were made to the background papers; if this was case, it is mentioned in the explanation of how the comment was addressed.

Comment: The connection between Beyond Waste and economic vitality was not obvious.

More explanation was added to the first part of the summary document and additional examples and referenced studies were added to the background document on the industrial initiative. (See Beyond Waste -- A Collaborative Approach)

Comment: Disagreement with Ecology's statement in the draft plan that we should work toward "less regulation" over time

Ecology's philosophy on this was clarified. The plan now states, "Achieving the Beyond Waste vision will require a different way of doing business. While regulations are needed, they are not necessarily the best or the only way to achieve Beyond Waste." (See Beyond Waste -- A Collaborative Approach)

Comment: Specific additional industrial sectors or hazardous substances should be considered for action.

In the Industrial initiative, auto-recyclers, solvents and PVC plastics were added for possible action in the future. (See #2IND)

Comment: Recycling, was not adequately addressed, especially for food waste, paper and other solid waste materials.

Food waste was added to the Organics Recycling Initiative. Also, paper recycling and the need to strengthen overall recycling in the state was added to solid waste recycling section. (See Increasing Recycling for Organic Materials, and Recycling and the technical nutrient cycle)

Comment: The impacts of the Beyond Waste plan on local government plans and budgets were not clear

Clarification was added about the relationship between local plans and the Beyond Waste plan. Also, language was added about how implementation activities will vary across the state, according to the capacities and needs of local government jurisdictions. (See Beyond Waste -- A Collaborative Approach and Solid waste authorities local planning issues)

Comment: The discussion on financing solid waste lacked a balanced perspective.

This section, as well as the background paper on this subject, was extensively revised in collaboration with a workgroup of the State Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to be more balanced.

Comment: The data indicators should be modified.

Lots of good suggestions were made which will be examined thoroughly by the Ecology Beyond Waste data team and will be taken into consideration when finalizing the indicators and developing the first progress report. (See Measuring Progress Toward Beyond Waste)

Comment: The importance of waste to energy in this state was underemphasized.

Additional language was added to the disposal section about the role of Waste to Energy plays in this state. (See Solid Waste Issues -- Disposal--yesterday, today and tomorrow.)

Comment: There is a lack of specificity on implementation strategies.

An implementation plan that was reviewed by the state SWAC was added to the summary document and to the appropriate background papers. In addition, the Beyond Waste Web site will publish progress reports that will highlight implementation strategies. Some of the specific implementation actions still need to be planned and whenever possible will be done in collaboration with interested parties. (See the Implementation Plan section.)

For more specific information regarding how and why comments were addressed the way they were, please contact Cheryl Smith on solid waste issues (#360-407-6654), Chris Chapman on hazardous waste issues (# 360-407-7160) or through the Beyond Waste Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/beyondwaste/>.